

THE DE SOTO COUNTY NEWS

W. R. JONES, Editor
WILL C. LANG, Editor
M. J. WEAVER, Editor
M. C. BURTON, Editor

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AN Legal Advertiser's middle name is Florida.

In ordering the address of your paper changed, if former address as well as new address. Particulars, paper regularly will please notify us, and every remedy the trouble.

OFFICE IN THE NEWS BUILDING ON OAK STREET

Our News and Job Office is New, Complete, and Up-to-Date, and Department is in Charge of Competent Men, Who Will Give Prompt and Careful Attention to Advertising or Job Work Entrusted to Them. Estimates and Advertising Rates Furnished on Application.

LINTYPE COMPOSITION FOR THE TRADE AT REASONABLE RATES

DeSoto for prosperity.
Pull for the home town.
Join the order of prosperity.
Throw that old hammer away.
Join the buy at home movement.
It is not a sign of optimism to work.

Keep in tune to the progress of De Soto.

Sewing circles are noted for timely topics.

Better to be a butterfly than a butterfly.

Take a little stock in the Civic League.

Sure, Biddle, the Irish are no longer allens.

Try the intensive farming plan and note results.

The safety last is some times very important.

Even the state fair project has its parasites.

There is an urgent call to the colors of prosperity.

Great thing to be always ahead—ask Arcadia.

If your business is large enough, don't advertise it.

It seems as if the "nail" has fallen out of Dardanelles.

The present supply of flour contains a self-rising process.

Readers who are not subscribers are the greatest kickers.

This is the season for the making of screens and swatters.

Those Mexicans will likely explain the death of the American.

Frequently the man with the least coin runs the greatest bluff.

Congress launched the ship bill, but it was in a tub of whitewash.

Which are the positive and which the negative poles in Poland?

Now for the estimate on the various kinds of hard surfaced roads.

Our daily query: Is Arcadia to have a ball team this coming season?

Harry Thaw may at least take the consolation that he is not a criminal.

The call for the election for trustees was evidently intended for the classes.

The Tampa Tribune may be properly regarded among the recent boosters for DeSoto.

Certainly the British should bear the lion's share of the expense of the European war.

The paragraphs of the Apalachicola Times have the flavor of present day baker's bread.

Those Italian ships supposed to be destined for the Dardanelles must be out sightseeing.

If England desires to use Uncle Sam's colors she should take out naturalization papers.

The growers of citrus fruits have a holy cause, but one which will not boost itself. Boost it along.

What's the matter with Punta Gorda putting a little more boost back of the restorative fountain?

The tango palaces of New York have undertaken their regular employment of feeding the unemployed.

President Wilson is determined that the attitude of Uncle Sam toward Mexico shall not be misunderstood.

Arcadia's celebration will be a fine sample of Arcadia's progressive spirit. Don't drop any straws in the way.

When Harry Thaw's money shall have been exhausted, there will not then be any question as to his sanity.

Judging by rumors that are going the rounds, the people of this city will not have to wait for the convening of the legislature in order to secure the required amount of gas.

The "Buy at home" plan helps the other fellow who is your neighbor, assists in building up your own country, and at the same time makes your transactions more of a certainty in desired results.

The News may not be considered a lawyer's enemy when size is considered. It cannot be charged with filling Mr. Holt's columns with plate matter and the purpose of merely motivated.

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The Zolfo Truth, is a little bit of a suspended in operation for some months because of having been burned out, has been re-established. The News's acknowledgment receipt of a recent issue of that splendid paper. There is an old familiar adage that "Truth crushed to earth shall rise again," and we are therefore not surprised that the Zolfo Truth should again come into its own. We are pleased to see Brother Adams back in the fold.

We note that some of the newspapers of the state are indeed very careless in regard to using clipped editorials and not giving proper credit for them. Recently we published an editorial on the question of legislation that will likely be considered at the next session. Our editorial went unnoticed at the time, but was later copied without credit by one of the state papers. The article was then copied by a number of papers and all gave credit to the paper which copied without credit. We are not so particular about having credit for all of our articles, but nevertheless all articles should be credited to the proper parties, and it is an ethical practice that should not be infringed upon or overlooked.

PREPOSTEROUS PLAN.

"A preposterous plan is advocated by some DeSoto county people for the betterment of the conditions in the fruit market. They propose to hold their fruit until it brings a certain price, or allow it to fall on the ground. We cannot make prices on a perishable product, and the holding back of the fruit and allowing it to rot would result in creating a better market for California oranges, and that is all it ever would amount to. If the embargo did raise prices the immediate shooting out of immense quantities would lower them again, all the plums being picked by Florida's rivals. The law of supply and demand makes prices. When evenly balanced, prices are fair; when the supply is short and the demand heavy, prices are high; when demand is light and supply heavy, prices are low, and that is our present trouble. All we can do is to try to send out the best fruit possible, rightly packed, and then to distribute it evenly, and take what the market will pay. Isn't that so?"

The above editorial was given in the Florida Grower in its issue of March 12th. In the same issue of this splendid journal there was a two-page boost for Arcadia and DeSoto county. These articles were most interestingly written, and in paragraphs containing from fifty words to two hundred words each. At the close of this splendid two page "write up" were these words, "The slogan of these boosters is 'Arcadia Always Ahead.'"

We have been wondering, after having read each of these splendid booster paragraphs, and then having compared them with the above editorial in connection with the slogan "Arcadia Always Ahead," if it was intended by Brethren Wright and Kay as an intended that Arcadia is going so fast she might run over herself.

This editorial of the Florida Grower, in order to be more fully comprehended, should be considered in connection with another editorial in the same issue of the Grower under the caption, "Conditions at Arcadia." This one referring to the mass meeting called to assemble in the court house at Arcadia March 20th, says in part as follows:

"The commission men have to work under cover this year because they are so utterly discredited in Arcadia that they dare not come

out into the open. They are back of the movement to form some organization outside the Exchange, knowing that it will fall to the ground and come to nothing, leaving the situation as it was before. The only salvation of the growers of Arcadia is to work together for themselves, through an organization already in working condition, and the only one in sight is the Florida Citrus Exchange.

If the meeting, is truly a growers' movement for the growers, we wish it success, but we believe that if the animal inside the fleece is examined closely he will be found he possess very long teeth indeed. Beware of tanagras, pharisees, men sounding brass cymbals loudly, and wolves in sheep's clothing. The growers should think for themselves."

This is the "unkind-cut" of a2 and we can not believe that the editor of the Grower would have penned such words had he been better informed. This meeting is called wholly in the interest of the growers. The chairman of the meeting is a grower, the secretary a grower, the committee of seven appointed by the chairman to present a plan of organization is composed exclusively of growers.

No one is eligible to membership unless he is known as a grower of citrus fruits. We are at a loss to know from what source came the information upon which this article is based. These men are coming together because much of their fruit is yet unsold, and what has been sold in scores of instances have not brought enough to pay the freight. We know personally of one instance where a grower and shipper was called upon to put up \$35 since the price of the sale lacked this amount to pay the expenses. How dare anyone say that he even "believes" that if the animal inside the fleece is examined closely he will be found to possess very long teeth indeed? The fact is, if these conditions long continue the poor grower will need no teeth at all and will wish he had no appetite.

Now a few words as to the "Preposterous Plan." Our space will not permit an elaborate discussion, and neither is it needful at this time. This subject will be discussed fully at the mass meeting next Saturday. Suffice it to say for the present that this organization does not propose to fix a price and hold the fruit until this price is "obtained or let it fall on the ground."

It is true that a minimum price will be fixed, but if conditions prove this price to be too high in order to meet the competition of other markets, then most assuredly the organization will have business sense enough to lower the minimum price to meet the competition. The only possible way to defeat the plan will be for the growers to refuse to co-operate. Failure is impossible if the growers stand together. Whether they will do this or not is an untried quantity, but we must confess that we see no reason for sending the fruit north unless somebody in the north wants it. People usually have a way of manifesting their wants, hence we anticipate there will be plenty of buyers if the trade needs the goods. If there be no need of the goods, then let the factories close down. Don't keep on manufacturing goods when your shipment sales do not even so much as pay the freight.

The growers are aroused as never before. They are not complaining so much at the prices of fruit in the north as they are at what they receive. The prices in the main have been reasonably good, but the grower is not receiving his part. To illustrate: We have before us an invoice of the sales on a car load of grapefruit consisting of 340 boxes, shipped from this place to Grand Forks, North Dakota. This fruit sold for \$796.10, a good price, averaging \$2.34 per box. But let's see how it rounds out for the grower. He paid \$170 for picking and packing; the freight was \$367.31, and the commission merchant charged \$159.22 for selling, while the grower only received \$99.57, or 29 cents per box, not enough to pay the cost of fertilizer alone. Had the commission man charged a reasonable percent, a percent in proportion to what commission brokers or drummers receive for selling other staple goods (for every fair minded person knows this fellow is not justly entitled to nearly twice as much as the producer), then this grower would have netted 68 cents per box on the tree, which is a profitable and entirely satisfactory price. Somebody's wings must be clipped, or else good bye to the Florida fruit business. The grower only is the key to the situation. He only can remedy this great evil. Will he do it?

In conclusion we desire to say that we have no war to make on the Citrus Exchange. We are not striking back in any spirit of unkindness for we feel sure that the article was written in ignorance of the real facts. We had hoped, and yet hope, when we understand each other, that there may be a spirit of hearty co-operation between all organizations who have the common cause of the grower at heart. Let us not be too suspicious of others, lest others may look askance at our acts.

CALLS FOR LEGISLATION.

The DeSoto County Press Association, composed of the live newspapers of that prosperous section, has declared itself unequivocally in favor of legislation to enlarge the powers and privileges of the press in the publication of court news. This action of the association grows out of the recent decision of Judge Robles in a case in which the Tribune was defendant, in which the court holds that a newspaper is not privileged to print court records before they have been passed upon by a court or a jury.

Senator Fletcher's utterances in favor of curbing the power of press in its handling of public men and measures also served to bring forth the positive declarations of these DeSoto county editors, who take the position that, instead of being checked and curbed, the press should be by law given more freedom than it now enjoys.

Citing the utterances of senator and judge, the resolutions passed by the association say: Whereas, One of our leading public men has recently denounced the press and declared in favor of legislation to restrain its liberty and limit its value to the country; and

Whereas, In view of a recent decision handed down by one of our courts in which judgment was entered against a fellow publisher in the state of Florida for publishing as news, matters of court record; therefore, be it Resolved, By the DeSoto County Press Association, that we deplore and condemn the spirit manifested by utterances and the designs to put unwelcome restrictions on the press and thus limit the usefulness in exposing the evils from which the country is suffering.

Resolved, That all court records are public property, and that newspapers have a right to publish them without any restrictions, and that it is the duty of newspapers to publish such records whenever such publication will tend to the promotion of private or public morals, and we hereby appeal to the legislature to enact legislation to protect newspapers in exercising this right and discharging their duty to the public.

A. P. JORDAN, President.

NEEDED LEGISLATION.

The question involved in the decision of Judge Robles is to be passed upon by the supreme court and, if that court finds the law to be as Judge Robles interprets it, it will then be a subject for legislative action—and the legislature should undoubtedly amend the law so as to permit the publication of any and all matters which reach the stage of a court proceeding.

Newspapers are usually conducted by men of ordinary discretion, and such privilege would not be abused to the injury of any innocent person. Newspapers always make it a point to give both sides of a dispute, especially a legal issue, and conferring this privilege will not alter their policy in this respect.—Tampa Tribune.

There seems to be a concerted campaign organized among some papers in Florida to wage war against Fletcher because of his criticism on reckless journalism. Apparently the game is to organize an anti-Fletcher faction in this state. The interest of some gentlemen name hasn't yet been mentioned who will be brought to the due time. The case is so obvious the casus belli so patently that it is most amusing. They can't do anything of substance against senator, and they have expounded up his remarks on excessive newspaper in their abuse of public men, and are trying to pile on the agony and in the attitude of an enemy freedom of the press. Go to it, but the explosion of your paper's shells, while making some draws no blood.—Lakeland Times.

The News may be, among those papers of the state, have commented upon Senator Fletcher's attitude toward the press, and his utterances. However, like the other comments we have expressed the sincerest doubt Florida's senior senator really any such statements, and criticism only in case should be proven to be true. For Fletcher did make the statement, then his shots from paper shrapnel shells, explosions will prove to have effect on his future political Florida. The News has been those papers in the state time and again been strong for Fletcher, but the News open to conviction upon any point for the best interest of and her people.

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